

# Unveiling the Lyrical Tapestry of "The White Eyelash: Poems" from Grove Press Poetry

## *Some Days*

Some days I put the people in their places at the table,  
bend their legs at the knees,  
if they come with that feature,  
and fix them into the tiny wooden chairs.

All afternoon they face one another,  
the man in the brown suit,  
the woman in the blue dress,  
perfectly motionless, perfectly behaved.

But other days, I am the one  
who is lifted up by the ribs,  
then lowered into the dining room of a dollhouse  
to sit with the others at the long table.

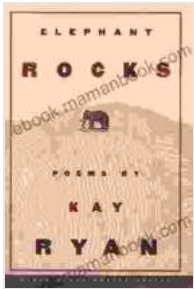
Very funny,  
but how would you like it  
if you never knew from one day to the next  
if you were going to spend it

striding around like a vivid god,  
your shoulders in the clouds,  
or sitting down there amidst the wallpaper,  
staring straight ahead with your little plastic face.

**Billy Collins**

In the realm of contemporary American poetry, Billy Collins stands as a towering figure, known for his playful wit, incisive observations, and accessible style. His collection, "The White Eyelash: Poems," published by

Grove Press Poetry in 2010, is a testament to his exceptional craftsmanship, offering a rich tapestry of themes that explore the complexities of human nature, the passage of time, and the power of language. Embark on a literary journey as we delve into the lyrical nuances of this acclaimed work.



## The White Eyelash: Poems (Grove Press Poetry)

by Susan Kinsolving

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 180 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 116 pages  
Lending : Enabled



### Themes of Human Experience

Collins' poetry delves deeply into the universal experiences that bind us all, capturing the poignant moments, the fleeting thoughts, and the profound emotions that shape our lives. In "Passengers," he reflects on the transient encounters we make on public transportation, revealing the hidden stories and connections concealed within the anonymity of the crowd.

"Passengers"

*One life is like a train. It rolls  
Along the tracks of a straight world  
And stops at stations where we board  
And leave. The conductor murmurs*

*His announcements through the speakers  
And we obediently rise and depart.*

Through the lens of everyday objects and experiences, Collins illuminates the inherent beauty and absurdity of the human condition. In "The Bluebird," he transforms an ordinary bird into a symbol of hope and resilience, reminding us that even in the face of adversity, there is always something to celebrate.

"The Bluebird"

*I have seen the bluebird  
Flying in the winter  
Against a snow-filled sky  
And I have thought  
If I had fingers  
I would catch it  
And hold it in my hand  
Like a world I had found  
But I can only watch it now  
As it flies in its bright blue sweater  
And I know that it will soon be gone  
Disappeared into the gray mist  
But I have seen it  
And for a moment  
It was my happiness.*

### **The Passage of Time**

Time is an ever-present force in Collins' poetry, both a source of wonder and a poignant reminder of our own mortality. In "Sunday in Vermont," he

captures the nostalgia and bittersweetness of a childhood memory, where the passing of time is both a loss and a source of cherished recollection.

"Sunday in Vermont"

*The blue jays shriek  
In the woods behind the house.  
We are sitting on the porch  
Watching the bees in clover,  
Swelling with summer,  
Our summer in Vermont.*

*A man with a mower  
Starts a pattern in the grass.  
A dog barks far away.  
The smell of lilacs  
Floats like a thought  
Over the hills.*

*We watch the clouds.  
We count the minutes  
Until we have to go.*

In "The Lanyard," Collins uses a mundane object—a child's lanyard—to reflect on the complexities of life and the evolving nature of our relationships. Time becomes both a witness to our experiences and a shaper of our own identities.

"The Lanyard"

*The small, plastic lanyard  
With the name tag that says*

*"Visitor." I used to wear  
This around my neck. Now  
It hangs on a hook  
By the door, a reminder  
Of another life, when I  
Was a guest in other places,  
Before I came to live here.*

*Sometimes I hold it in my  
Hands, and I can almost  
See the face that went with  
The name. I can see  
A woman walking down a  
Long corridor, past closed  
Doors, on her way to see  
Her dying friend. Or  
A woman looking out the  
Window at the snow on  
The roofs of Brooklyn. Or  
A woman sitting on a  
Bench, reading a book.*

## **The Power of Language**

Throughout his work, Collins celebrates the transformative power of language itself. In "The Names," he explores the mystery and enigma of names, recognizing them as both a source of identity and a veil behind which our true selves may hide.

"The Names"

*How can I trust you,  
I ask the new doctor  
Whose name I cannot pronounce,  
Whose white coat  
Hides a name tag  
With a name  
That refuses  
To enter my mouth  
Properly?*

In "The Trouble with Poetry," Collins playfully examines the complexities of the poetic process, acknowledging both its challenges and its enduring allure. Poetry becomes a mirror reflecting our own imperfections, an eternal quest for meaning and connection.

"The Trouble with Poetry"

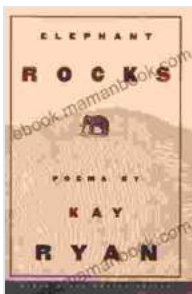
*That poetry should be hard.*

*That you should have  
To spend a whole day  
Trying to find the right word  
To start with. That before  
You can really say anything  
You should first consider  
The sound of your voice.*

"The White Eyelash: Poems" by Billy Collins is a captivating collection that invites us to ponder the depths of human experience, the relentless

passage of time, and the transformative power of language. With his signature wit, vivid imagery, and keen eye for observation, Collins weaves a lyrical tapestry that resonates with readers of all ages and backgrounds. From the poignant to the playful, his poems offer a fresh and illuminating perspective on the complexities of life, reminding us of the beauty, absurdity, and enduring human spirit that binds us all.

As we close this literary exploration, it is evident that Billy Collins' "The White Eyelash: Poems" is a timeless treasure, a testament to the enduring power of poetry to capture the essence of our shared humanity and inspire us to see the world with newfound wonder and appreciation.



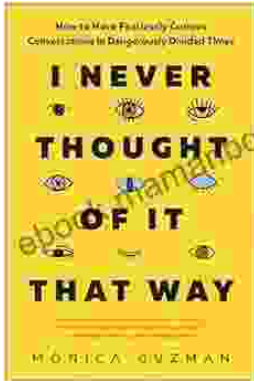
## The White Eyelash: Poems (Grove Press Poetry)

by Susan Kinsolving

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 180 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 116 pages  
Lending : Enabled





## How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times

In a world increasingly polarized by divisive rhetoric and echo chambers, it is more important than ever to engage in meaningful conversations with those who hold different...



## Few Things to Keep in Mind for a Successful Introduction Series

Writing an series can be a daunting task, but with careful planning and execution, it can also be incredibly rewarding. Here are a few things to...